



Medical Officer's Annual Report for 1920.



JOHN CORDLE, Premier Press, Felixstowe.

FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1920.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

In submitting my report for the year 1920 I propose to omit those particulars as to the general character and physical conditions of the district which were fully described in my report for 1919. The census population for 1911 was 8667 and is estimated for this year as 8245 for the birth rate and 7934 for the death rate.

The total births registered in the district were 213, 105 males and 108 females. This gives a birth rate of 25.83 per thousand, the highest ever recorded for this district and slightly higher than that recorded for the whole country, which is 25.4.

95 deaths were registered in the district, including 15 which were properly assignable elsewhere. After deducting these and including twelve of our own residents who had died in other places, we have a total of 92 for calculating our death rate, which works out at 11.59 per 1000 and compares favourably with 12.4, the rate for the country as a whole. It is probable, however that our population is under estimated and that both birth and death rates are really lower than those we have calculated.

There have been 16 deaths of infants under one year of age so that the infantile mortality per thousand births registered, is 75.1, a figure which compares satisfactorily with 80 per thousand for the whole country and still more so with our own rate for last year which was 113.

Full details as to the causes and age periods of the deaths of residents, non-residents and infants are given in the tables attached to this report.

The subject of water supply was dealt with fully in my last report and as there stated, its source is from two deep wells in the chalk strata, one of which is situated at Rushmere and the other at Trimley. The bulk of the water is from the former well and since its use the chlorine content of the water has diminished considerably and also the permanent hardness. The source of the water thus places it above suspicion of contamination with organic matter and the analyses have been invariably satisfactory. Typhoid fever is practically unknown in the district.

The sewage of the town is pumped by Shone's hydro-pneumatic system into a rising main which discharges into the estuary of the Orwell, and the whole of the town refuse is utilised for steam raising at the Outfall Pumping Station. Two Meldrum refuse destructors are installed in two units each, and the combustion of the daily refuse does the work of about two tons of coal. This has been ascertained from the fact that $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons of coal are required for steam raising when the destructors are not in use and only half a ton when they are fully supplied. About 14 tons of refuse on an average are collected daily, each ton of refuse having a fuel value of about 3 hundredweight of coal. The clinker residue from the destructors is used as hard core for roads and other purposes.

In the winter months the household refuse is collected by 8 men working 3 vans and 1 cart, the average daily collection being about 13 tons. In summer time there are 12 men working 3 vans and 3 carts collecting about 18 tons daily.

The refuse from each house is collected twice weekly in the winter and thrice weekly during the season or more often if necessary. In some cases a daily collection is made during the season.

There are 2107 houses in the district, 770 of which are of the working class type. Of these houses 1967 are provided with water closet accommodation and all but 30 are connected with the public sewer, the remainder having cesspools. Only 110 houses are unprovided with water closets, 100 of these having moveable receptacles and the other ten, fixed privies.

The following is a detailed list of the sanitary work carried out during the year.

Connections to public sewer	.	.	.	18
Nuisances abated	.	.	.	15
Disinfecting rooms	.	.	.	27 in 19 places
Cesspools emptied	.	.	.	212 times
Privies emptied	.	.	.	45 times
Pail closets emptied	.	.	.	1900
Houses completed (not working class type)	.	.	.	14
Houses of working class type in course of erection	.	.	.	32
Inspections of Slaughter houses, etc.	.	.	.	56

No prosecutions under the "Sale of Food and Drugs" Act have been necessary and no closing orders have been issued.

The Dairies, Cowsheds, Bakehouses and Slaughter houses have been inspected regularly and their condition has been satisfactory though the situation of the last mentioned is in many cases undesirable and from a sanitary as well as humanitarian point of view, it will be most desirable to have a well placed and well equipped public slaughter house.

There are 7 Slaughter houses in the district all of which are registered and licensed. In 1914 there were 8, but the use of one of them has been discontinued.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There have been no epidemics, and the incidence of infectious disease has been very light, only 33 notifications having been received, including 16 cases of Tuberculosis. The remainder are as follows: Scarlet fever 2 cases; Erysipelas 2 cases; Ophthalmia Neonatorum 1 case; Diphtheria 10 cases. Of the last mentioned disease, most of the patients were pupils at the Langer Road School, and in November it was decided to take swabbings from the pupils' throats and to make a Bacteriological examination of each. This resulted in the discovery of 19 positive carries in one batch and 23 in the second. Systematic gargling with chlorinated soda solution was carried out among the positives, who were also isolated from the rest of the pupils, first at the school and afterwards at their own homes. Two subsequent swabbings were taken, and on the last occasion all the results were negative and the children were allowed to return to school. No subsequent case of Diphtheria has occurred.

Fourteen patients were treated in the Isolation Hospital; 5 of Diphtheria, 1 of Scarlet fever, 2 of Erysipelas, 1 of German Measles, 1 of Chicken Pox, 3 of Tonsillitis and 1 of Croup.

During the financial period available for review only six patients were treated, and it would therefore be no value to analyse the cost per patient, as the establishment charges were going on the whole time. The total expenses of the hospital for the financial year ending March 31st, 1920, were £462 17 4, food items alone costing £142 15 3, so that each person in residence would appear to have cost about three shillings a day for food, an amount which seems unduly high.

The Military annex has been retained for use if necessary, so that thirty beds in all are available should an epidemic occur. The County Health Authority undertakes the care and treatments of Cerebro-spinal fever and Small Pox.

There was one death in the Isolation Hospital, that of a child who was moribund from Laryngeal Diphtheria when admitted.

The age periods of the cases notified and also of those treated in hospital are given in the tables at end of this report.

The County Health Authority undertakes the Bacteriological Examination of specimens sent to him for analysis, such as sputum for detection of Tuberclle, throat swabs for Diphtheria and blood for the Wassermann test. Active assistance is given by the Medical Officer of Health for the County, the Tuberculosis Officer and the Pathologist, who attend for consultation or to give their help in diagnosis or treatment whenever they are requested to do so.

The treatment of Tuberculosis, apart from that which is done privately by Medical Practitioners of the Town, is entirely in the hands of the County Health Authority. The same applies to Venereal disease, the centre for which is in Ipswich, but no cases have been passed on by me during the year.

There have been no deaths from Influenza. The vaccine supplied by the Ministry of Health for the prophylaxis of Influenza was used in 14 cases, none of which, so far as can be ascertained, contracted the disease subsequently. Ten primary and two re-vaccinations have been done under the provisions of the Small Pox Prevention Act for 1917.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The average attendance at the Centre was about 15 for Lectures, Instruction and Treatment. Milk has been supplied in about ten cases to expectant or nursing mothers and regular visiting is carried out by the Health Visitor. During the year the Centre was under the charge of the M.O.H. for the district.

Since my report was compiled, the returns of the Registrar General have been received and I therefore insert his table of births and deaths together with notes explaining any discrepancies between his figures and those which have been compiled locally

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. J. CONFORD, M.D. (Oxon.) M.O.H.

MEMORANDUM.

1—The number of births and deaths are those registered during the calendar year and are corrected for inward and outward transfers ; they will differ therefore from uncorrected figures compiled locally either for the calendar year or for a period of fifty-two or fifty-three weeks.

2—POPULATION.

In 1920 demobilization had reached a stage at which it is felt that the distinction between "birth-rate populations" and "death-rate populations," made during the period when a large part of the male population was under arms, might in general be discontinued. For most districts, therefore, a single estimate of population is shown and this is applicable to both births and deaths. For a few areas which contain an appreciable non-civilian population, however, two estimates of population, one for calculation of the birth-rate and one for the civilian death rate, are given, as in recent years.

The classification of some deaths is modified in the light of fuller information obtained from the certifying practitioner in response to special inquiries. The principal subjects of these inquiries are indicated in a table published in the yearly reports of the Registrar General ; and this possible source of discrepancy between the returns of the Registrar General and those compiled locally should be borne in mind particularly in regard to the causes of death dealt with in that table.

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,
SOMERSET HOUSE,
LONDON, W.C. 2.

1st March, 1921.

TABLE OF
INFECTIONOUS DISEASES IN FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT DURING
1920.

Disease.	Age Period.							TOTAL
	0-1	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	
Diphtheria ...	...		2	9		1		12
Scarlet fever ...	...		1		1		1	2
Erysipelas ...	...	...				1	1	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1				4	1	8	15
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...				1		1	1
Other Tubercular Diseases								
Total ...	1		3	14	2	9	2	33

CASES TREATED IN THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Disease.	Age Period.							TOTAL
	0-1	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	
Diphtheria ...				1	4	1		5
Scarlet fever					1
Erysipelas					2
German Measles			1	1		1
Chicken Pox			1			1
Tonsillitis			1	2		3
Croup			1			1
Total ...				2	6	2	3	14

CAUSES OF DEATH IN FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1920.

Diseases.	Age Period.							TOTAL
	0-1	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	
Premature births	4				1	1	1	4
Old age and "Natural causes"				1	1	4
Death from accidents				6	8	3
Suicides				1	1	1
Cancer			1	2	1	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...					2	2	4
Other Tuberculosis diseases	...				1			2
Diphtheria					1	1
Nephritis					6	2
Alcoholism					1	1
Organic Heart disease	...							10
Pneumonia					1	1
Bronchitis					3	4
Other Respiratory diseases	...				1			2
Appendicitis						1
Gastro-enteritis	...				1			1
Other defined diseases	...				8		1	35
Total	...				16	2	2	36
								92

Death-rate 11.59 per 1000.

CASES REGISTERED
IN DISTRICT BUT PROPERLY ASSIGNABLE ELSEWHERE

Disease.	Age Period.					
	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	TOTAL
Death from accident	1	2	2			5
Suicides			1	1		1
Pulmonary tuberculosis ...		1	1			2
Tubercular disease of spine ...			1			1
Pneumonia				1		1
Puerperal fever				1		1
Cancer					2	2
Scarlet fever	1					1
Intestinal obstructions			1			1
Total ...	1	1	4	6	3	15

TABLE OF INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Disease.	Age Period.				
	Under 1 Week	1 Wk. to 1 Month	1 to 3 Months	3 to 12 Months	TOTAL
Premature birth	3	1			4
Malformations		1		1	2
Marasmus		2	2		4
Pneumonia		1			1
Bronchitis				1	1
Atelectasis	1				1
Gastro-enteritis		1			1
Status lymphaticus ...			1		1
Convulsions		1			1
Total ...	4	7	3	2	16

Rate per 1000 births registered 75.1

Birth rate 25.83 per 1000.

CAUSES OF DEATH
IN FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT IN 1920.

Causes of Death. CIVILIANS ONLY.			Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES	...	..	35	55
Diphtheria and croup	...	...		1
Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	2	2
Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	2	
Cancer, malignant disease	.	.	4	10
Organic heart disease	...	...	2	9
Bronchitis	...	...	2	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	2	
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	1	1
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...		1
Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	1	
Cirrhosis of liver	...	...		1
Alcoholism	...	...		1
Nephritis and Bright's disease	...	...	1	2
Congenital debility, &c.	...	...	4	5
Violence, apart from suicide	...	...	1	2
Suicide	...	...		1
Other defined diseases	...	...	13	17
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...		1
Special Causes (included above)				
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	1	
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age				
Total	...	...	7	9
Illegitimate	...	...	1	2
TOTAL BIRTHS	...	...	103	112
Legitimate	...	..	101	100
Illegitimate	...	...	2	12
POPULATION	...	...
For Birth rate	...	...		8425
For Death rate	...	...		8124

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,
SOMERSET HOUSE,
LONDON, W.C.

April, 1921.

